

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 PM-03 INR-10 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DRC-01 RSC-01 /060 W

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R 301412Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 789

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T VIENNA 9901

LIMDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DELAY IN DISTRIBUTION OF COUNCIL DECISION

REF: USNATO 5766

CONCERNING ISSUE OF DISTRIBUTION TO THE AD HOC GROUP
OF COUNCIL DECISION OF 16 NOVEMBER RAISED IN
PERMREPS' LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 27, IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO
MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS ON APPROPRIATE OCCASSIONS:

1. THE TEXT OF THE USNATO TELEGRAM (USNATO 5533)
CONTAINING THE COUNCIL'S DECISION WAS NOT RECEIVED
AT USEMBASSY VIENNA UNTIL 1932 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON
NOVEMBER 16, HAVING BEEN TRANSMITTED AT 1745 HOURS
LOCAL TIME BY USNATO. AD HOC GROUP REPORT TO COUNCIL
CONTAINING OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS (VIENNA 9511) WAS TRANSMITTED
BY USEMBASSY VIENNA AT 1907 HOURS LOCAL TIME. AD HOC GROUP
MEETING HAD ALREADY CONCLUDED CONSIDERABLY BEFORE RECEIPT OF
USNATO'S TELEGRAM AND GROUP'S MESSAGE TO COUNCIL WAS ALREADY
ON ITS WAY.

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2. HOWEVER AFTER AD HOC GROUP HAD COMPLETED DRAFTING OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS BUT WAS FORMULATING MESSAGE OF TRANSMITTAL TO COUNCIL, US MBFR DEL WAS INFORMED BY USNATO BY SECURE PHONE OF SUMMARY OF COUNCIL'S DECISION.

3. US DEPREP AT ONCE REPORTED GIST OF COUNCIL DECISION TO AD HOC GROUP, AS DID OTHER REPS WHO HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS.

4. CONSENSUS OF GROUP WAS THAT SINCE AD HOC GROUP WAS TRANSMITTING OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS TO COUNCIL FOR LATTER'S APPROVAL, SINCE PRECISE TEXT OF COUNCIL DECISION WAS NOT AVAILABLE, AND SINCE TIME WAS OF ESSENCE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO LEAVE TO COUNCIL ANY AMENDMENTS IT WISHED TO MAKE IN AD HOC GROUP DRAFT OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PRIOR DECISION.

5. HAD FULL TEXT OF THE COUNCIL DECISION BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE GROUP PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF DRAFTING OF OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL, THE OUTCOME WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

6. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF AD HOC GROUP HAD RECEIVED TEXT OF COUNCIL DECISION BY TIME OF NEXT SUBSEQUENT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19 AND COMMENTED ON ITS CONTENT. AT THAT TIME, OF COURSE, IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR THE GROUP TO TAKE ANY ACTION SINCE FOCUS OF DECISION HAD SHIFTED TO BRUSSELS. THOUGH ADMINIS-TRATIVE ERROR, WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN CORRECTED, FULL DISTRIBUTION BY US DEL TO AD HOC GROUP WAS NOT MADE UNTIL NOVEMBER 21.

7. AT THAT TIME, US REP APOLOGIZED FOR LATE CIRCULATION, POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD REPORTED SUBSTANCE ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 16 AND THAT GROUP HAD DECIDED TO LEAVE TO COUNCIL RECONCILING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AD HOC GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS AND COUNCIL DECISION.

8. AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE, PRESENT ISSUE IS PURELY ONE OF TIMING. IN EFFECT, TRANSMITTAL OF TEXT OF COUNCIL DECISION AND OF AD HOC GROUP REPORT TO
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COUNCIL CROSSED. NO OTHER FACTORS WERE INVOLVED AND THERE IS NO BASIS FOR ANY SUSPICIONS. INSTALLATION OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF COMMUNICATIONS IN 3-4 WEEKS WILL OBIVATE NEED FOR USE OF NATIONAL FACILITIES.HUMES

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